# Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the United States: Highlights from the 2020 Census

**Nicholas Jones**, Director of Race Ethnicity Research & Outreach, Population Division **Roberto Ramirez**, Assistant Division Chief, Special Population Statistics, Population Division **Eric Jensen**, Senior Technical Expert, Demographic Analysis, Population Division

National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations – Fall 2021 Virtual Meeting

November 4-5, 2021



## 2020 Census Provides a New Snapshot of Racial and Ethnic Composition and Diversity



Improved Race and Ethnicity
Measures Reveal U.S. Population
Is Much More Multiracial



2020 U.S. Population More Racially and Ethnically Diverse Than Measured in 2010

## **2020 Census Asked Two Separate Questions on Hispanic Origin and Race**

No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin								
Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano								
Yes, Puerto Rican								
Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – Print, for								
example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc. ⊋								

Significant changes from 2010 Census for race and ethnicity question designs, data processing, and coding.

. Wha	k 🗶 (	on <i>e</i> te –	or I	nor	e bo rex	xes amp	A I le, (			Ĭ			h, Ita	aliar	٦,	
	Leb	anes	se, E	gyp	rtian,	etc	.₹									
	Blac				Am. an, Λ										an,	
	Ame															
			Azte	c, Ñ	lativ	e Vi	llage		Barr	ow I	nupi	at T				,
		erni	Azte ment	c, Ñ	lativ	e Vi Esk	llage imo		Barr mmu	ow I	nupi etc.	at T	radi		al	,
	Gov	nese	Azte ment	c, Ñ	lativ	e Vi Eski Vi	llage imo	Con	Barr mmu	ow I	nupi etc.	at T	radi	tiona	al	7,
	Chir Filip Asia	nese ino un In	Azte meni	ec, Ń	lativ	e Vi Esk Vi Ko	llage imo etna	Con	Barr mmu	ow I	etc.	lativ	e Ha	awa	a <i>l</i> iian	
	Chir Filip Asia Othe Prin Pak	nese ino un In er A: t, fo. istar	Azte meni dian sian	ec, Ń t, No amp amb	lativome	Vi Esk Vi Ko Ja	llage imo etna	Con ame:	Barr mmu	ow I	I N S I C F 7	lativ Samo	e Ha	awa o cific exa Fijia	iian	nder
	Chir Filip Asia Othe Prin Pak	nese ino un In er A: t, fo. istar	Azte ment dian sian r exa ni, C	ec, Ń t, No amp amb	lativome	Vi Esk Vi Ko Ja	llage imo etna	Con ame:	Barr mmu	ow I	I N S I C F 7	lativ Samo	e Ha	awa o cific exa Fijia	iian	nder
	Chir Filip Asia Othe Prin Pak	nese ino an In er A: t, foi istar	Aztementi menti dian sian r exa ni, C etc.	l t, No amp amb	lativome	Vi Vi Ko Ja	etna etna prea	Con names n	Barr mmu sse	ow I	I N S I C F F T A M	lativ Samo	e Ha	awa o cific exa Fijia	iian	nder

### U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standards for Race and Ethnicity (1997)

### **OMB** ethnicity categories:

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

#### **OMB** race categories:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

The Census Bureau is required by Congress to use the category "Some Other Race" as a sixth race category.



### **Separate Ethnicity Question**

	NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 6 about Hispanic origin and Question 7 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.							
6.	5. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?							
		No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin						
		Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano						
		Yes, Puerto Rican						
	☐ Yes, Cuban							
	Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – <i>Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.</i>							

#### 2020 Census

- Question designs for 2020 Census adhere to 1997 OMB standards for race and ethnicity.
- The Census Bureau did not use combined question format for collecting race and ethnicity.
- 1997 OMB standards require two separate questions for self-response.
- "Middle Eastern or North African" (MENA)
  category not used, but detailed MENA
  responses collected.
- Significant changes from 2010 Census questions for race and ethnicity.

### **Separate Race Question**

<b>-</b>		_										
7. What is this Mark 🗴 one	-			<b>ID</b> p	rint	orig	gins					
	White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc. $\overrightarrow{k}$											
	African i an, Haitia										an,	
principa Mayan,	in Indian I tribe(s), Aztec, Na nent, Noi	for e ative	xample Village	e, Na e of E	vajo Barro	Na w I	tion nupi	, Bla at T	ckfe	et 7	ribe	
Chinese	,		Vietna	mes	e		[ N	lativ	e Ha	awai	ian	
Chinese Filipino	•		Vietna Korea		е			lativ Samo		awai	ian	
				n	е		S		oan		ian	
Filipino Asian In Other A	idian sian – r example ni, Cambe	П е,	Korea	n	е			Samo Chan Other Print, Tong	oan norro r Pa for an,	o cific <i>exa</i> i Fijia	Islaı mple	•
Filipino Asian In Other A Print, fo Pakistar	idian sian – r example ni, Cambe	П е,	Korea	n	е			Samo Chan Other Print, Tong	oan norro r Pa for an,	o cific <i>exa</i> i Fijia	Islaı mple n,	θ,
Filipino Asian In Other A Print, fo Pakistar Hmong,	idian sian – r example ni, Cambe	e, odian	Korea Japan	n ese				Samo Chan Other Print, Tong	oan norro r Pa for an,	o cific <i>exa</i> i Fijia	Islaı mple n,	θ,



# Improvements to 2020 Census Question Designs, Data Processing, and Coding Procedures

- Yield a more accurate portrait of how people self-identify
- Reveal the U.S. population is much more multiracial and more diverse

- Improvements to the 2020
- Census Race and Hispanic
- Origin Question Designs, Data Processing, and Coding Procedures

Access0000 00000

BY RACHEL MARKS, CHIEF, RACIAL STATISTICS BRANCH, POPULATION DIVISION AND MERARYS RIDS YARGAS, CHIEF, ETHNICITY AND ANCESTRY SRANCH, POPULATION DIVISION



### Improvements to the 2020 Census Hispanic Origin Question

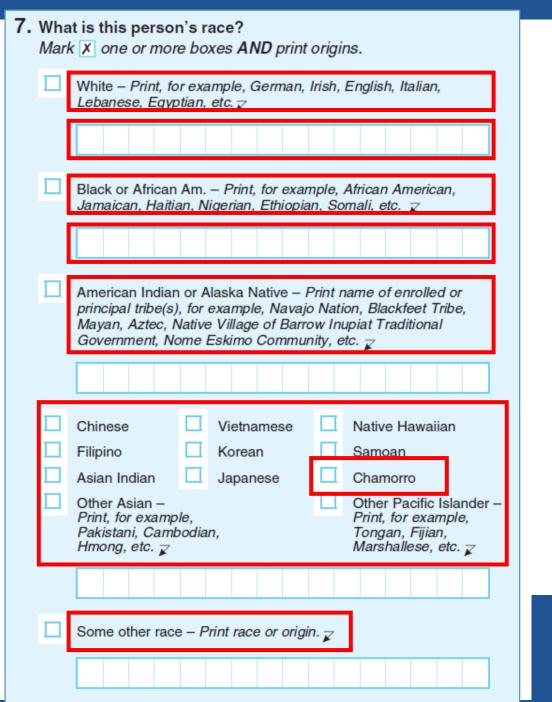
- The instruction to "Print origin, for example" was revised to "Print, for example."
- The example groups were revised from "Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on." to "Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc."

<b>→</b>	→ NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 6 about Hispanic origin and Question 7 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.									
6.	6. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?									
		No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin								
		Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano								
		Yes, Puerto Rican								
		Yes, Cuban								
		Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – Print, for								
	example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.									



### Improvements to the 2020 Census Race Question

- Write-in response areas were added for the White and Black or African American racial categories.
- Six examples were provided for each of the write-in fields allocated to the "White," "Black or African American," and "American Indian or Alaska Native" groups.
- The category "Black, African Am., or Negro" was changed to "Black or African Am." on paper.
- The detailed Asian and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander checkboxes were re-ordered by population size.
- The checkbox category "Guamanian or Chamorro" was changed to "Chamorro."
- The write-in instructions for the "Some Other Race" category were updated to "Print race or origin."





### **Code List Improvements for the 2020 Census**

- In the 2010 Census code list, many detailed White groups and detailed Black groups did not have unique codes
- We also added many new White and Black detailed groups that we collect in the ACS question on ancestry to the 2020 Census race code list
- For the 2020 Census, we conducted extensive research and consulted with experts to improve our code list
- The addition of these detailed codes gives us the ability to tabulate data for more detailed groups than we have in the past
- Plans for data products on detailed race and ethnicity groups are still under development

EUROPEAN	N (EXCEPT SPANISH)	1010-1749		
Albanian		1010-1014		
Albanian	Materia	1010	2220 2224	
Not Used	Motswana		3220-3224	
	Motswana (Botswana	.)	3220	
Alsatian	Not Used	41-1-N-4	3221-3224	5000 5400
Alsatian		Alaska Native		5020-5499
Not Used	Mozambican	Alaskan Athab		5020
	Mozambican	Ahtna, Inc. Con	rporation	5021
Andorran	Not Used	Alanvik		5022
Andorran		Alatna Village		5023
Not Used	Namibian	Alexander		5024
Not Used	Namibian	Allakaket Villag	5025	
Armenian	Not Used	Anvik Village		5026
		Arctic Village		5027
Armenian	Nigerian	Beaver Village		5028
Not Used	Not Used	Birch Creek Tril	be	5029
	Nigerian (Nigeria)	Chalkyitsik Villa	age	5030
Austrian	Yoruba	Cheesh-Na Trib	5031	
Austrian	Igbo	Chickaloon Nat		5032
Tyrolean	Not Used	Circle Native Co		5033
Not Used		Cook Inlet	<i></i> ,	5034
	Nigerien	Copper River		5035
	Nigerien (Niger)	Doyon		5036
	Not Used	Eklutna Native	Village	5037
	1101 OSCU		ge (Bettles Field)	5038
			(Louden Village)	5039
		Gulkana Village		5040
		Healy Lake Villa		5041

### The Autocoding and Residual Coding Processes

### **Automated coding**

- Responses that had a match in the master file were automatically coded
- About 99% of write-ins were automatically coded

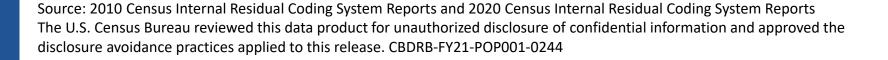
### **Residual coding**

- Responses that could not be matched and automatically coded were "residual" responses
- Residual responses were sent to the National Processing Center (NPC) to be coded using the Residual Coding System (RCS)



### **Autocoding Rates and Total Number of Write-in Responses: 2010 and 2020** (M = millions)

Subject	2010 Census Number of Write-ins	2020 Census Number of Write-ins	2010 to 2020 Difference, Number of Write-ins
Race	37.7 M	335.5 M	297.8 M
Hispanic origin	17.1 M	15.0 M	-2.1 M
Total	54.7 M	350.5 M	295.8 M





### How Data on Hispanic Origin and Race are Processed and Coded in the 2020 Census Compared to the 2010 Census

#### 2010 Census

- Limited to coding two write-in responses and
   30 characters per write in line.
- Due to the limit, in the Hispanic origin question, Hispanic origin responses were prioritized over race responses.
- Due to the limit, in the race question, race and tribal responses were prioritized over Hispanic origin responses.

#### **2020 Census**

- Up to six write-in responses and 200 characters were coded per write in line.
- There was no prioritization of responses, all responses were treated equally.

We fully tested these coding and question changes in the 2015 National Content Test and finalized them in the 2018 Census Test.



### 2010 Census Data Collection Operation Captured Up to 30 Characters and Coded Up to Two Groups

MEXICAN AMERICAN INDIAN AND PORTUGUESE AMD AFRICAN AMERICAN

2020 Census Data Collection Operation Captured Up to 200 Characters and Coded Up to Six Groups

MEXICAN AMERICAN INDIAN AND PORTUGUESE AND AFRICAN

**AMERICAN** 



### Improvements for 2020 Census Hispanic Origin and Race Code List

#### 2010 Census

- Used two separate code lists for race and Hispanic origin.
- Race code list included limited detailed codes for White, Black, and Hispanic groups.
- Hispanic origin code list included limited detailed codes for race groups.

### **2020 Census**

- Used one combined code list for race and Hispanic origin.
- The combined race and Hispanic origin code list included thousands of detailed codes for all race and Hispanic origin groups.

We fully tested these coding and question changes in the 2015 National Content Test and finalized them in the 2018 Census Test.



### Coding Rules for Hispanic Origin: 2010 Census and 2020 Census

- In the 2010 Census, if someone provided more than two write-in responses in the Hispanic origin question write-in area, we prioritized coding Hispanic groups over race groups or other types of responses.
- In 2020, there was no prioritization of responses, enabling all responses to be treated equally.

#### Coding Rules for Hispanic Origin Question: 2010 Census and 2020 Census

χ Write-in response	How it was coded in the 2010 Census	How it was coded in the 2020 Census
Black, Peruvian	Black and Peruvian	Black and Peruvian
White, Puerto Rican	White and Puerto Rican	White and Puerto Rican
Spaniard, White, Honduran	Spaniard and Honduran	Spaniard and White and Honduran
Mexican, Black, Colombian	Mexican and Colombian	Mexican and Black and Colombian

Note: 2010 Census coding rules prioritized Hispanic origin responses over race responses; 2020 Census coding rules did not.



### Hispanic Origin Coding and Tabulation: 2010 Census and 2020 Census

Coding Impacts on Tabulation in the Hispanic Origin Question

Write-in Response:

Black, Colombian, Peruvian

2010 Census Codes:

Colombian, Peruvian

Hispanic Origin Tabulations

Hispanic or Latino



### Coding Rules for Race: 2010 Census and 2020 Census

- In 2010, if more than two groups were part of a write-in text string on the same line in the race question, we prioritized coding race groups over Hispanic origin groups because we were limited to only coding two responses.
- In 2020, there was no prioritization of responses, enabling all responses to be treated equally.

#### Coding Rules for Race Question: 2010 Census and 2020 Census

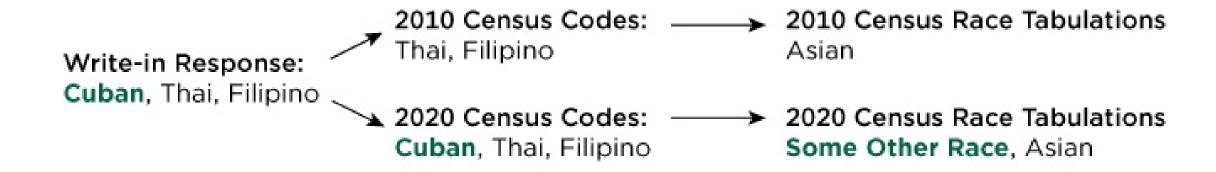
T -							
Write-in response	How it was coded in the 2010 Census	How it was coded in the 2020 Census					
Hispanic, White	Hispanic and White	Hispanic and White					
Black, Latino	Black and Latino	Black and Latino					
Hispanic, White, Chinese	White and Chinese	Hispanic and White and Chinese					
Spanish, Mexican, Samoan, Chamorro	Samoan and Chamorro	Spanish and Mexican and Samoan and Chamorro					

Note: 2010 Census coding rules prioritized race responses over Hispanic origin responses; 2020 Census coding rules did not.



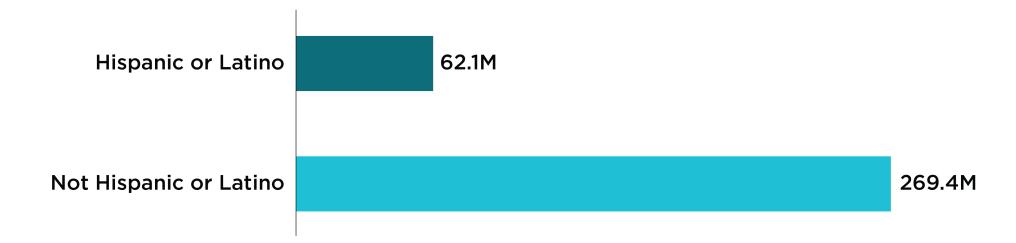
### Race Coding and Tabulation: 2010 Census and 2020 Census

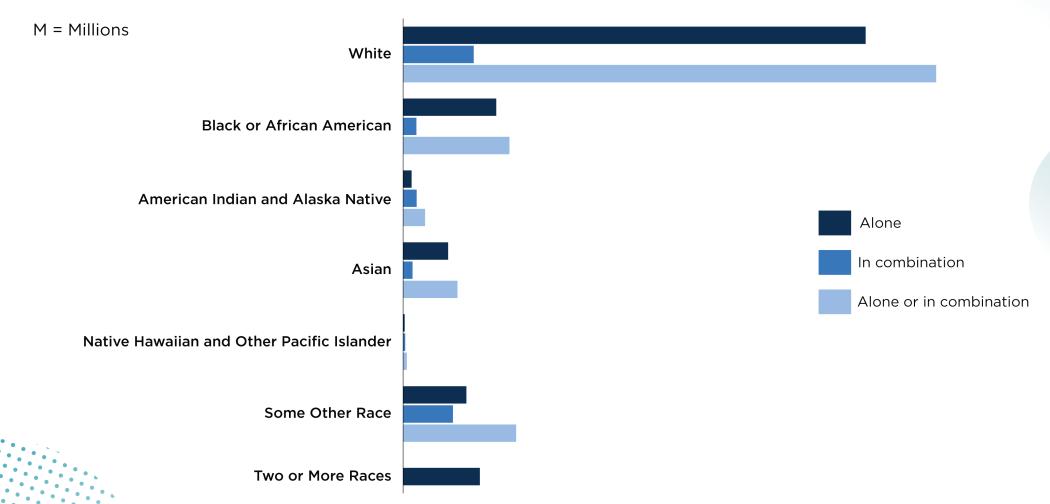
Coding Impacts on Tabulation in the Race Question

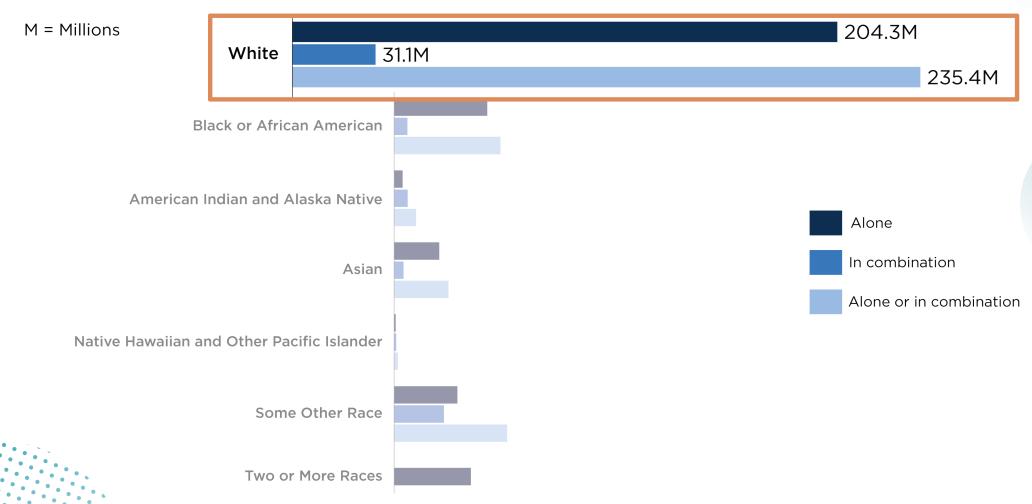


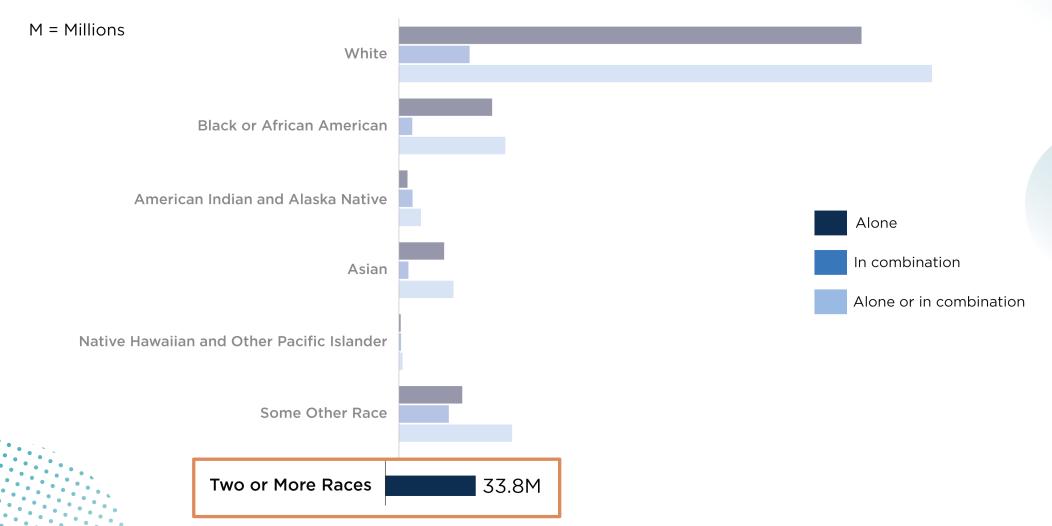


M = Millions

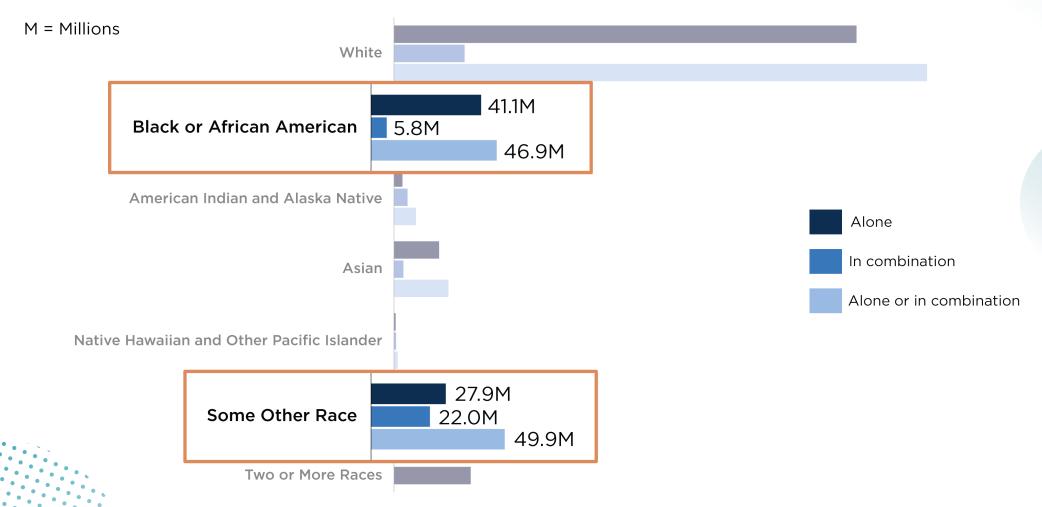


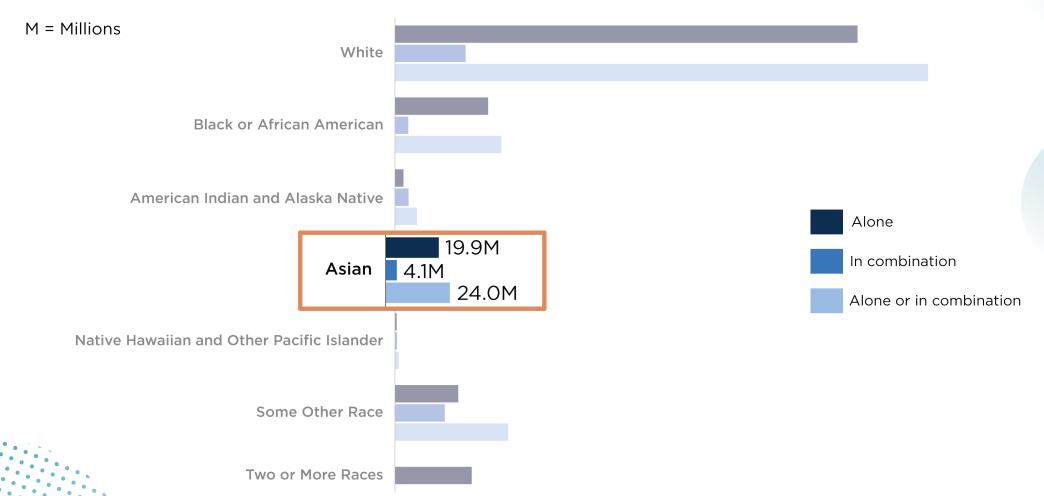


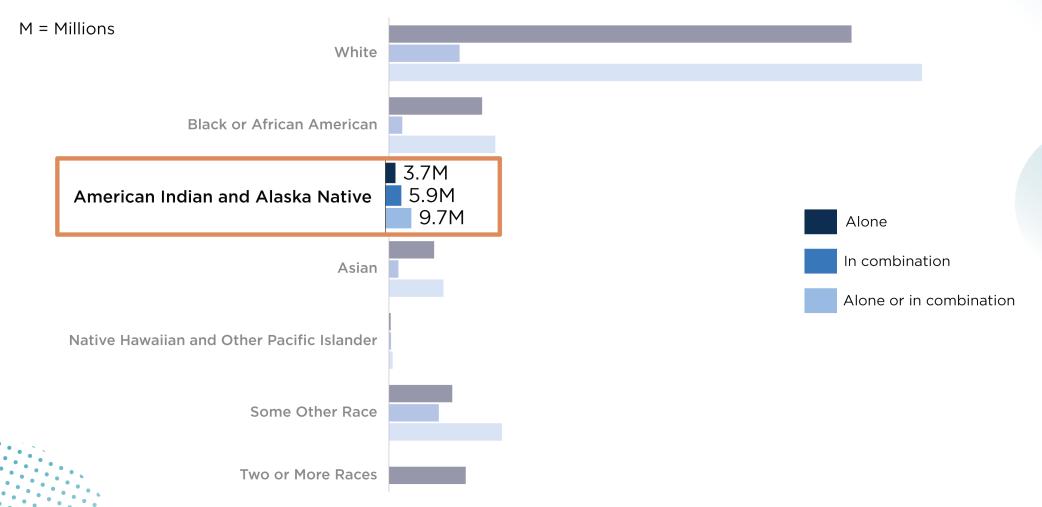


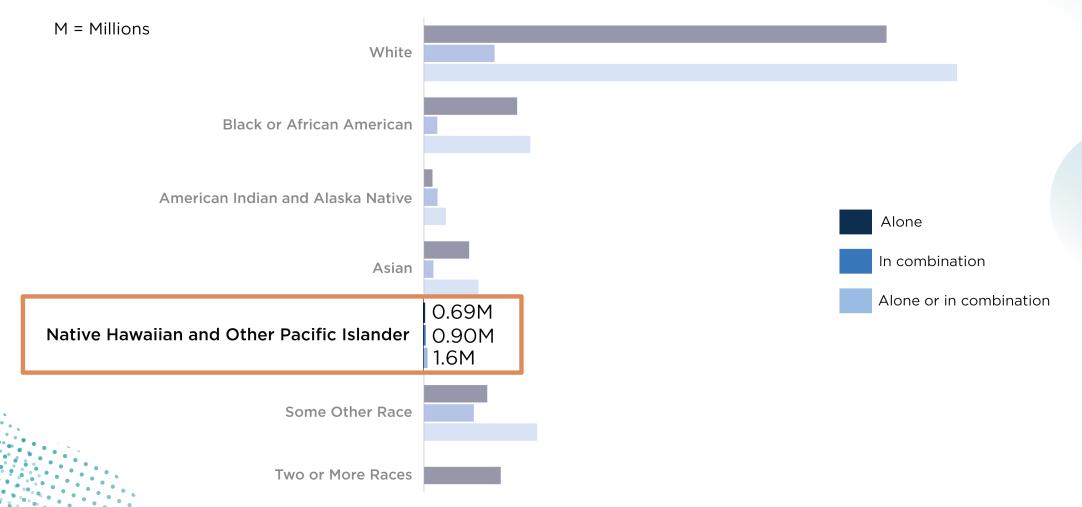


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File.

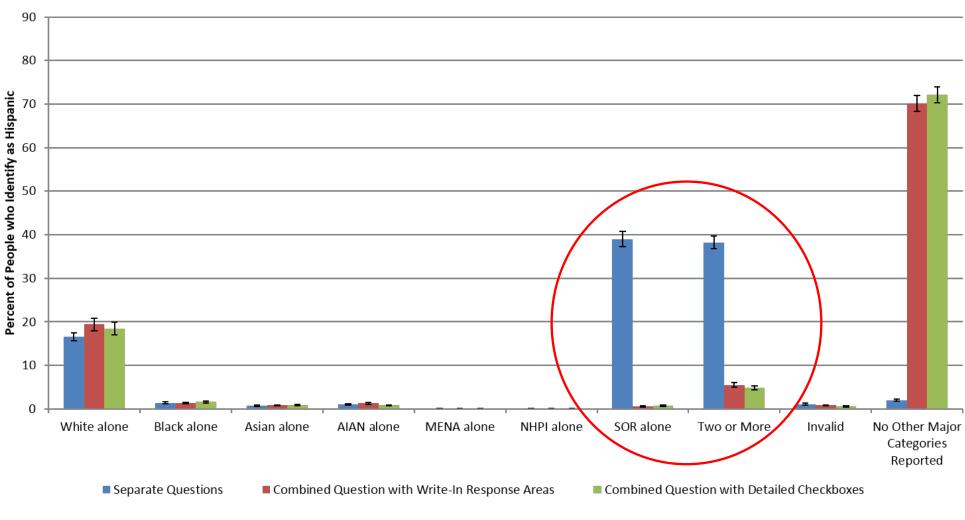


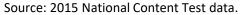






# Percent Distribution of Race for Hispanic Origin Respondents by Question Format in the 2015 National Content Test





Note: 95% confidence intervals are depicted by the vertical black lines at the top of each bar.



## Improvements to 2020 Census Question Designs, Data Processing, and Coding Procedures

- Yield a more accurate portrait of how people self-identify.
- Reveal U.S. population is much more multiracial and more diverse.

- Improvements to the 2020
- Origin Question Designs, Data Processing, and Coding Procedures

August 03, 2021

BY RACHEL MARKS, CHIEF, RACIAL STATISTICS BRANCH, POPULATION DIVISION AND MERARYS RIOS-VARGAS, CHIEF, ETHNICITY AND ANCESTRY BRANCH, POPULATION DIVISION

## **2020 Census Shows Different But Reasonable and Expected Distributions**

- 2020 Census and 2010 Census race data comparisons should be made with caution, taking into account improvements.
- Results are not surprising.
- Results align with expert research and findings.
- Improvements more accurately illustrate richness and complexity of how people identify within Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards.



# **Cross Tabulation of Hispanic Origin by Race (Table P2)**

P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data

**Table P2** 

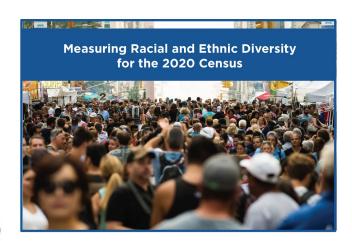
Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race

**Universe: Total population** 

#### HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE [73] Universe: Total population Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino: Population of one race: White alone Black or African American alone American Indian and Alaska Native alone Asian alone Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone Some Other Race alone Two or More Races: Population of two races: White: Black or African American White; American Indian and Alaska Native White; Asian White; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander White; Some Other Race Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native Black or African American: Asian Black or African American; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Black or African American; Some Other Race American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander American Indian and Alaska Native; Some Other Race Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Asian; Some Other Race Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: Some Other Race Population of six races: White; Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some Other Race

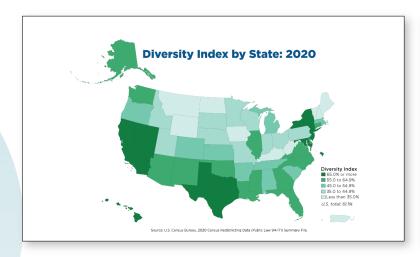
### **Comparing Cross-Tabulated Race and Ethnicity Data**

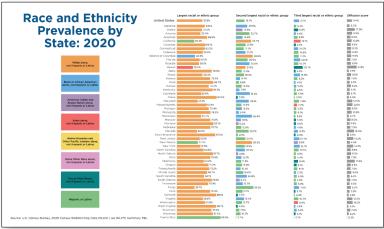
- Cross-tabulated race and ethnicity statistics are not as impacted by race reporting patterns of Hispanic respondents.
- We are confident changes in diversity measures reflect actual demographic changes, as well as improvements to 2020 Census question designs, data processing, and coding.

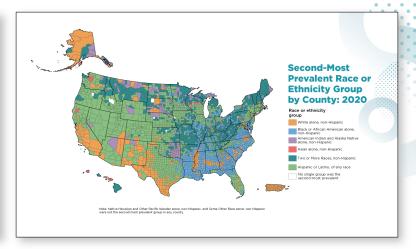


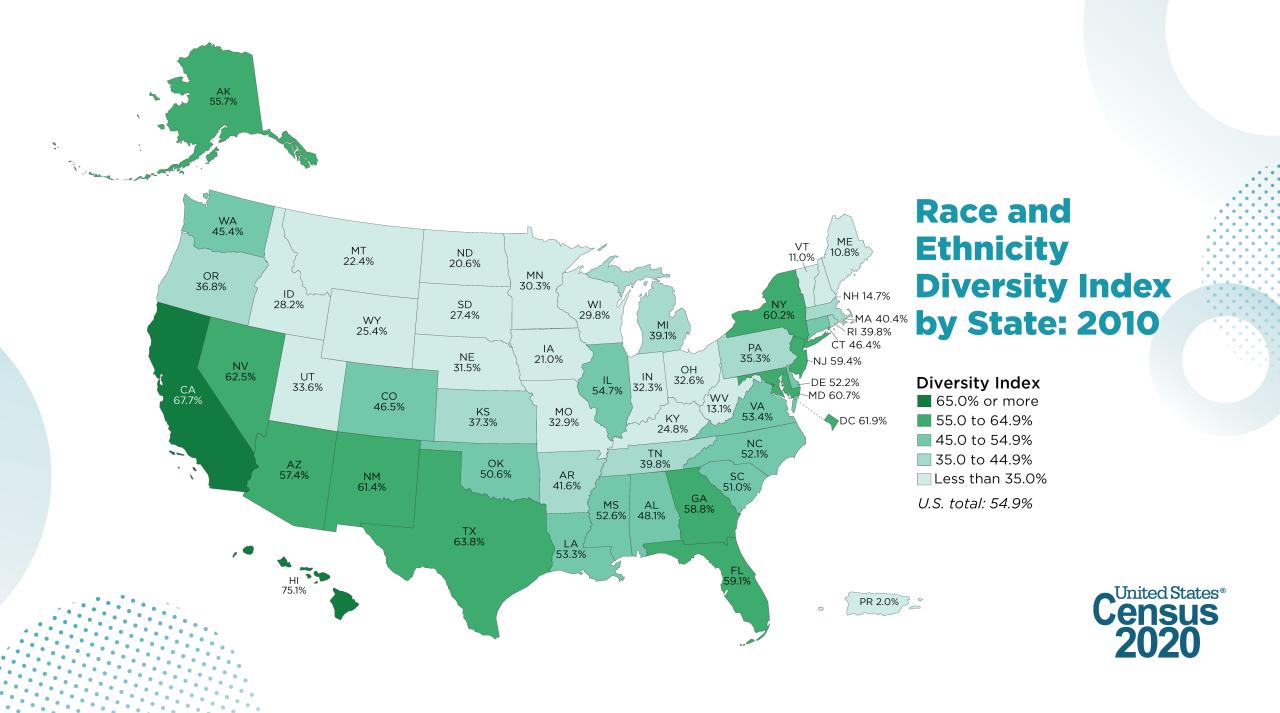
### **Measuring Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the 2020 Census**

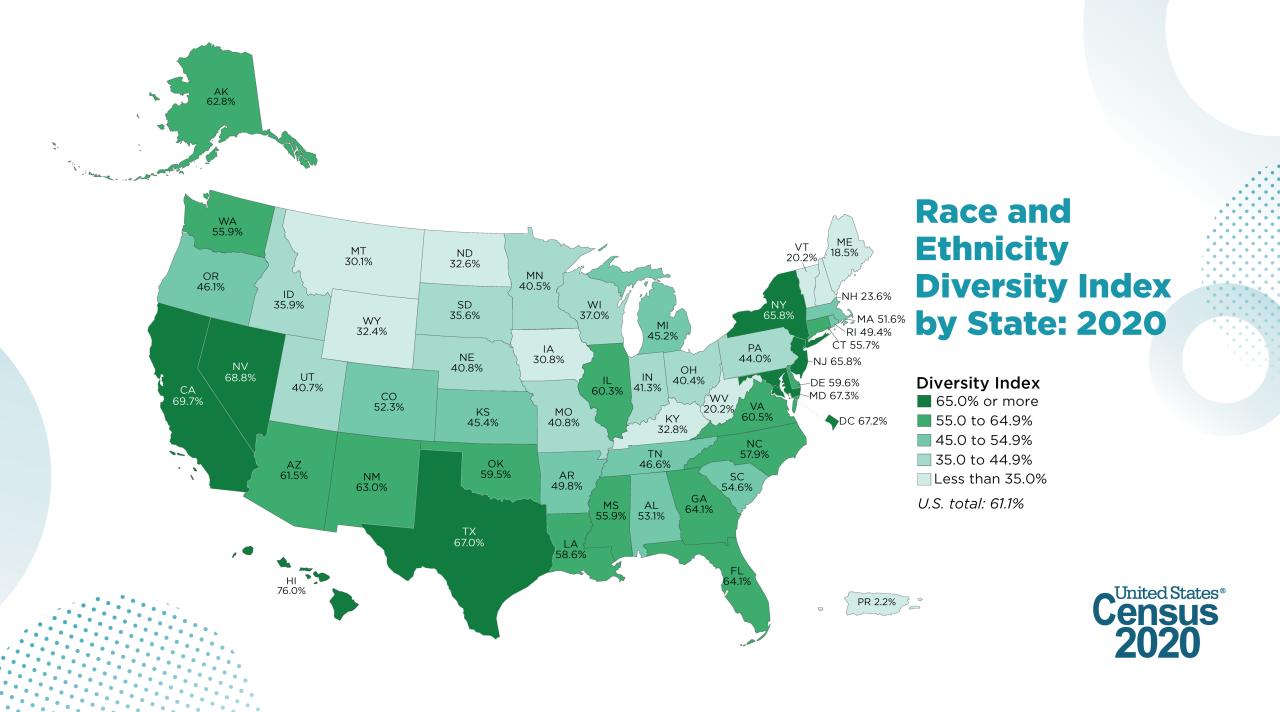
Concept of "diversity" refers to representation and relative size of different racial and ethnic groups within a population.

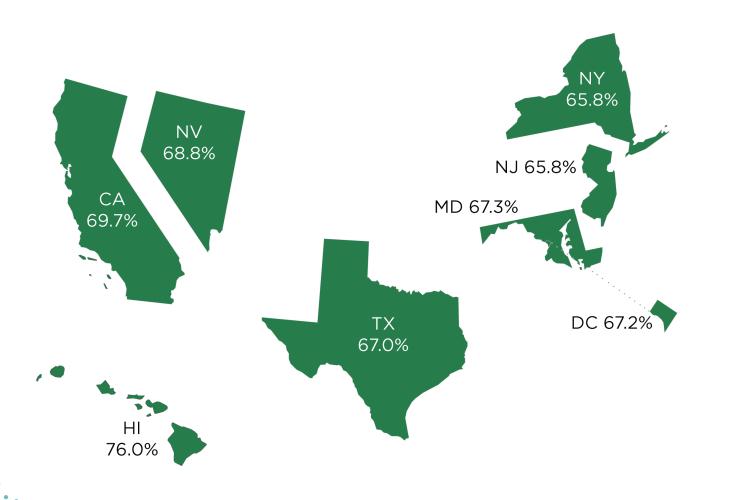












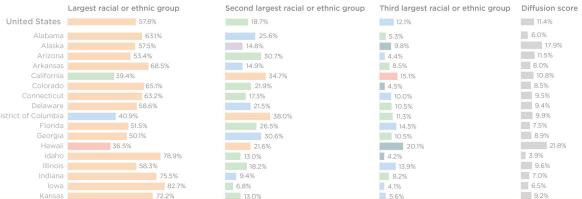
### Race and Ethnicity Diversity Index by State: 2020

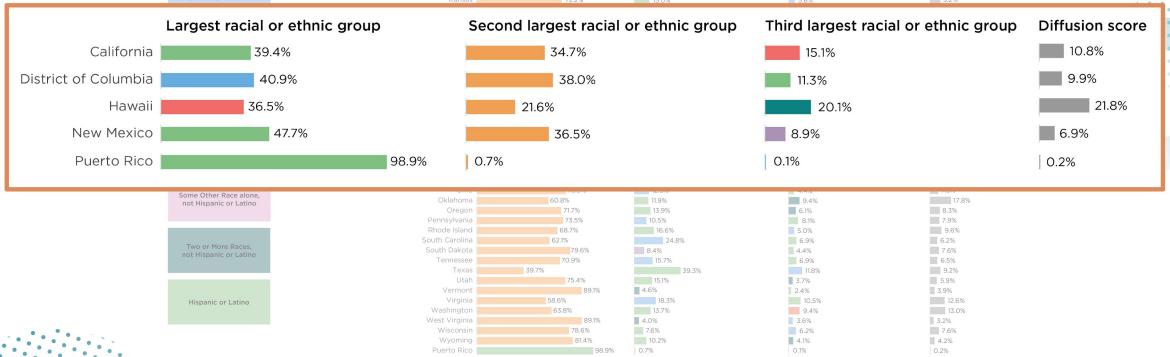
Diversity Index ■ 65.0% or more



# Race and Ethnicity Prevalence by State: 2020

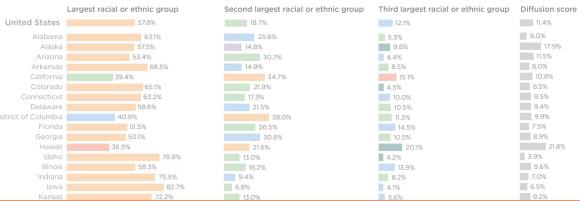


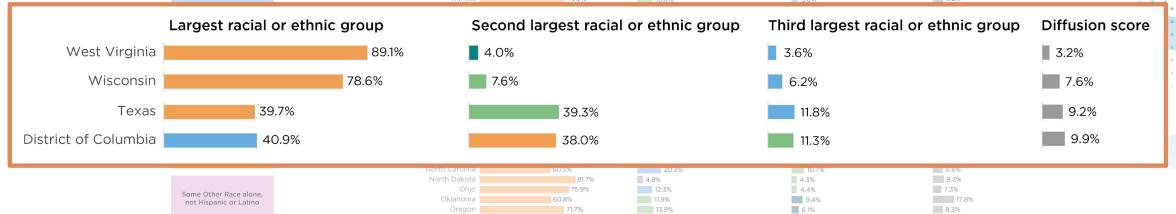




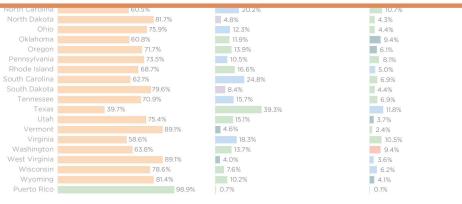
# Race and Ethnicity Prevalence by State: 2020











7.9%

9.6%

6.2%

6.5%

9.2%

5.9%

3.9%

3.2%

7.6%

4.2%

0.2%

12.6%

13.0%

# Race and Ethnicity Prevalence by State: 2020



Asian alone, not Hispanic or Latino

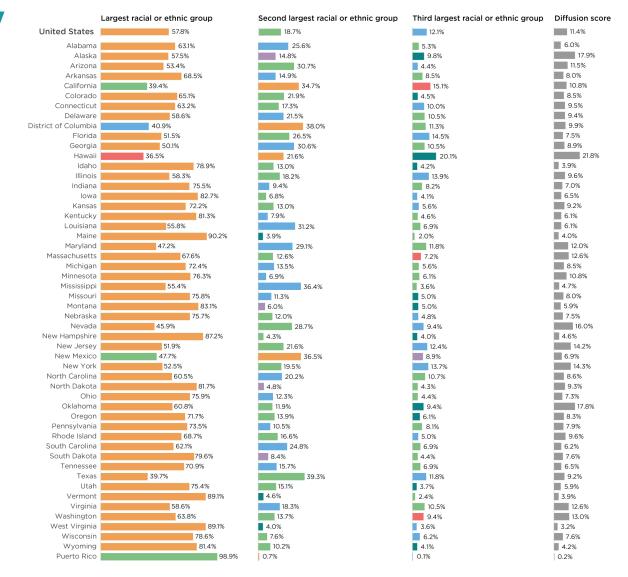
not Hispanic or Latino

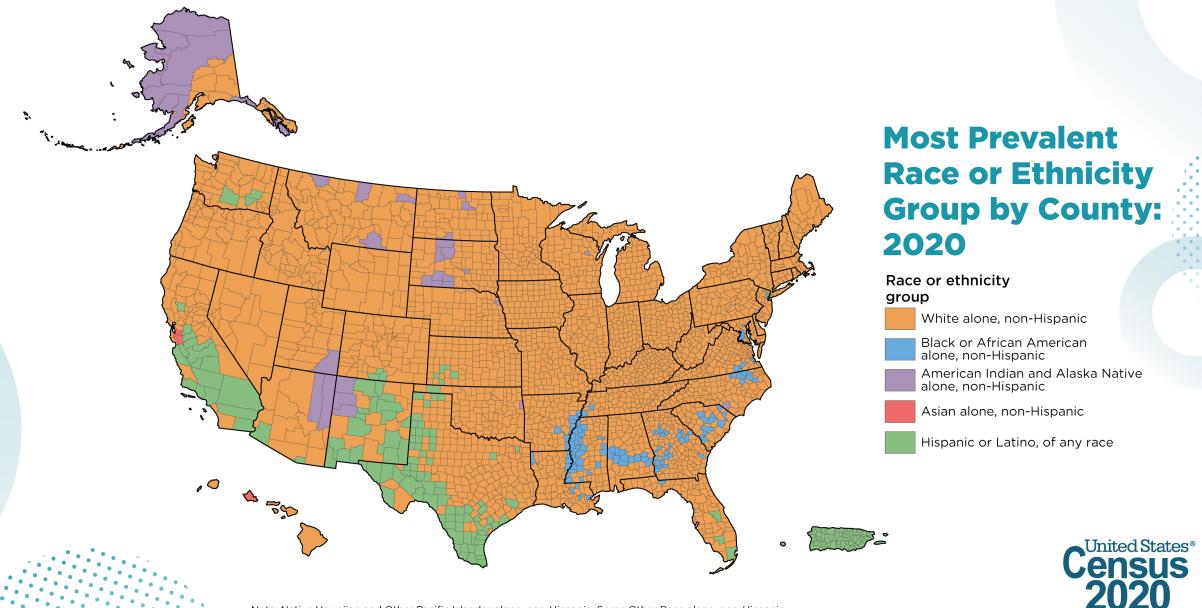
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone not Hispanic or Latino

Some Other Race alone, not Hispanic or Latino

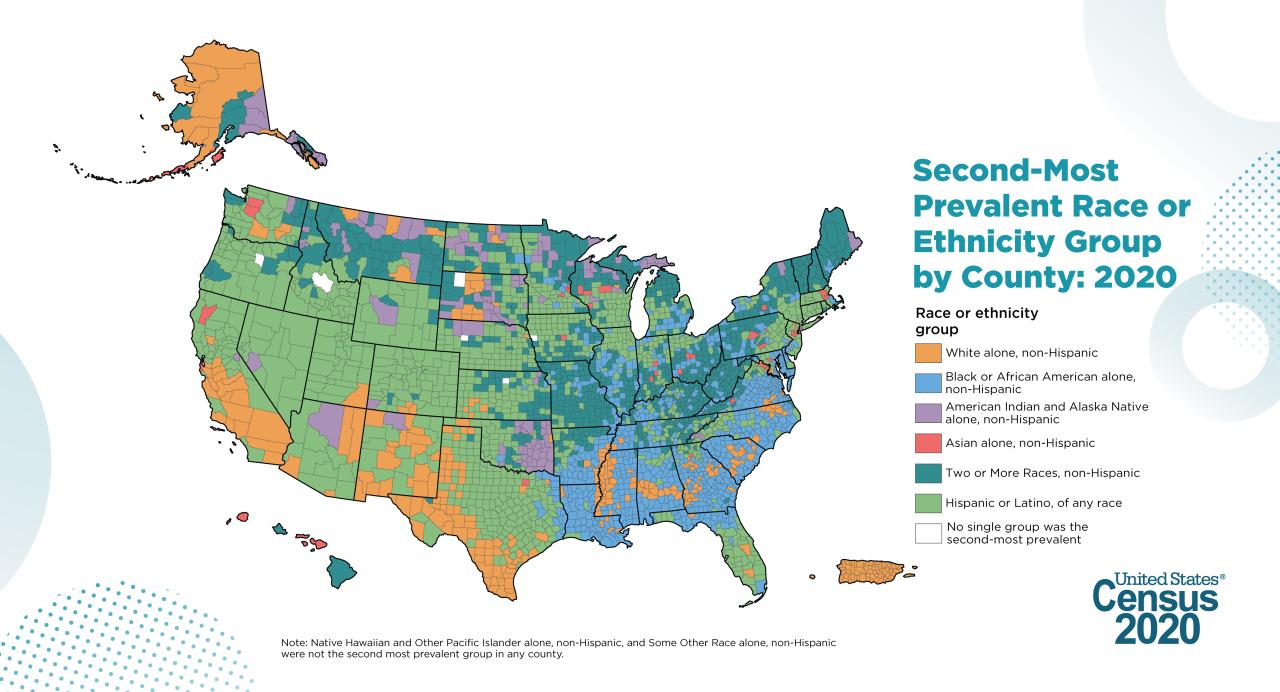
Two or More Races, not Hispanic or Latino

Hispanic or Latino

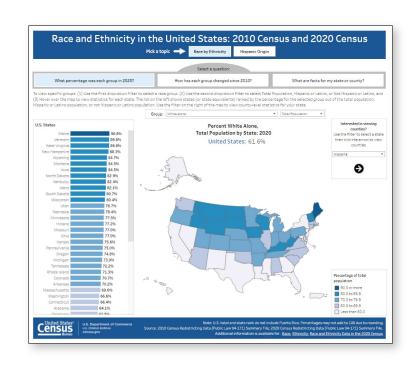


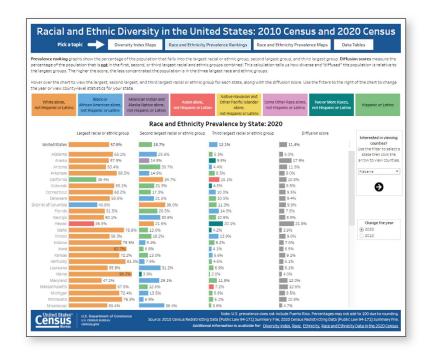


Note: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, non-Hispanic, Some Other Race alone, non-Hispanic, and Two or More Races, non-Hispanic were not the most prevalent group in any county.



Our interactive data visualizations available on census.gov can help you explore statistics for your state, county, and areas across the United States.





Race and Ethnicity Data Viz

**Racial Ethnic Diversity Data Viz** 

DATA GEMS: How Can I Visualize Race and Hispanic Origin Data from the 2020 and 2010 Census?

DATA GEMS: How Can I Access Data About Race and Ethnic Diversity from the 2020 and 2010 Census?

## 2020 Census Provides a New Snapshot of Racial and Ethnic Composition and Diversity



Improved Race and Ethnicity
Measures Reveal U.S. Population
Is Much More Multiracial



2020 U.S. Population More Racially and Ethnically Diverse Than Measured in 2010

# 2020 Census Shows Different But Reasonable and Expected Distributions

- Improving the 2020 Census questions on Hispanic origin and race, along with our data processing and coding procedures, enable us to have a more complete picture of the detailed identities reported by the U.S. population in 2020.
- The 2020 Census and 2010 Census race data comparisons should be made with caution, taking into account improvements
- Results are not surprising and align with expert research and findings
- These improvements more accurately illustrate the richness and complexity of how people identify their race and ethnicity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century within the OMB Standards



### **Next Steps**

- Continue to investigate 2020 Census race and ethnicity data at lower levels of geography to understand changes in the data and demographic patterns
- Develop and solicit stakeholder feedback on detailed race, ethnicity, and tribal data products
- Finalize mid-decade research plans based on the results of the 2020 Census and in consultation with outside experts, stakeholders, and federal partners



### **Questions for NAC**

- 1. We are continuing to research how we can present information on racial and ethnic diversity from the 2020 Census PL results. Are there any additional measures or approaches that you recommend we explore?
- We shared our major findings on race and ethnicity from the 2020 Census with you today. What major takeaways have you found in the data for your local areas and/or communities that we have not discussed today?
- 3. Do you have a recommendation for future research explorations to help improve statistics on race and ethnicity?

